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THE MORNING NEWS

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Guatemala extradites ex-president to US: lawyer



GUATEMALA CITY (AFP) - Guatemala on Friday extradited ex-president Alfonso Portillo to the United States to face money laundering

charges.

"Farewell, people of Guatemala," the former president said as he boarded a flight at a Guatemalan military air force base, an AFP reporter on the scene witnessed. Portillo, who had been fighting extradition, earlier on Friday "received a letter ordering him" to the military base, so that he could be extradited to the United States, his attorney Mauricio Berreondo told AFP.

Kerry to meet Lavrov, Fabius for Syria talks in Paris

PARIS (AFP) - US Secretary of State John Kerry will meet his Russian and French counterparts in Paris on Monday ahead of an expected international conference on ending Syria's conflict, officials said.

Kerry and Sergei Lavrov will meet "to continue discussions from their meeting just a few weeks ago in Russia, and provide updates as they plan ahead for the international conference on Syria," a State Department official said

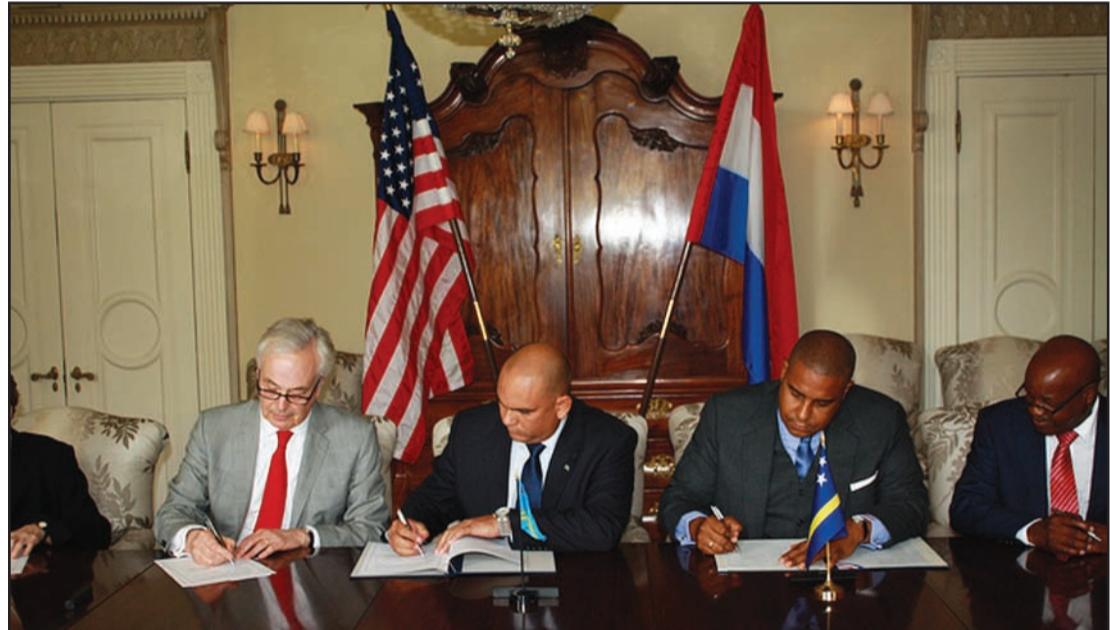
in a statement Friday.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius will also take part in what a Western diplomatic source said would be a "working dinner" in a restaurant in the French capital.

Russia said on Friday the Damascus regime had agreed "in principle" to attend an international peace conference on the Syrian conflict that world powers hope will take place in Geneva in June.

Continued on pg 6

Aruba signs important agreement of cooperation with FAA



Last Thursday afternoon at the home of the Dutch Ambassador of the Kingdom in Washington DC, Aruba Minister Oduber signed an agreement of cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the United States. This is an agreement that had been pending for several years, but that was finally signed after the Minister pushed this forward during his last visit last year.

Others signing the agreement were Ministers of Curaçao and Sint Maarten, representatives of Holland for the BES islands and representatives of ANSP (Aeronautical Service Provider).

The Aruba Minister indicated that it took more than 10 years to formalize the agreement. During the 90's Aruba encountered several challenges, but that we learned from our experience. In 1997 Aruba recovered her status of category 1 and ever since has focused on training and improving the staff at our Department of Civil Aviation. We also did the necessary modifications to face the challenges in the aviation industry, especially the aspect

of security.

The Minister also mentioned that although there was no formal agreement with the FAA, Aruba always maintained an excellent relationship with the USA during the past years.

The Minister also shared some important statistics during the occasion. The number of passengers passing through the Aruba airport during 2012 was over 2.1 million. The total movement of commercial flights was over 30 thousand. Of the total number of passengers leaving Aruba (1.043.174), 57% travelled to the USA. Along with this, Aruba has the privilege of the US Border Control Immigration and Customs at the airport for the past 10 years, which facilitates travellers to the USA.

All the more reason, according to Oduber for maintaining a good relationship with the USA and the FAA authorities, and to comply with the security requirements of our civil aviation.

He indicated that..."we can assure you that we will continue the improvements of the control of the Depart-

ment of Civil Aviation and the operation of the airport so as to continue to offer a product of high quality..."

The Minister was sure that the level of confidence with the FAA will continue on the same high level as it always was and where improvements are required we will be diligent in taking care of them.

Mind Your Eye Conference offers sound advice about business security

Yesterday, the third annual Mind Your Eye Conference, dedicated to aspects of business security, was conducted by HW Training and Development Associates in the ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. This year, the focus was preventing robbery and theft in the workplace, as well as training employees to anticipate such trauma and deal with it, before, during and after.

See story inside on pg 2

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Mind Your Eye Conference offers sound advice about business security

Yesterday, the third annual Mind Your Eye Conference, dedicated to aspects of business security, was conducted by HW Training and Development Associates in the ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. This year, the focus was preventing robbery and theft in the workplace, as well as training employees to anticipated such trauma and deal with it, before, during and after.

The first half of the program, before the lunch break, featured guest speakers from Holland and the U.S. Opening the morning's presentations was Head of the Department of Security and Transport of the Central Bank of the Netherlands, Theo Surig. Following him was keynote speaker, Tim Zehring, Director of Risk Management for Sterling Grand and Associates, and a 22-year veteran of the police force in Mesa, Arizona.

As a specialist in bank security, Mr. Surig's talk focused



Theo Surig

on the requirements of such organizations, but was completely applicable to other sorts of business that do high-cash commerce, such as a casino, or carry a valuable inventory, like jewelry stores. Both speakers had an essential message: today's technology, not matter how "advanced," is no substitute for a well-trained and well-prepared work force.

During Mr. Surig's talk, titled "From Re-Active to Pro-Active" he explained how they analyzed the weaknesses and threats to the Central Bank,

which resulted in a complete reorganization of their security practices. They maintain 60 armed guards, and are the only such institution in Holland where the guards are allowed, by law, to carry firearms. Another practice was to establish various security areas and to prevent not only clients, but employees from entering areas where they have no business. This limits access to sensitive material to low-level employees, and also creates a generally safer working environment. The bank also deploys a badge system with face identification software imbedded in the photos, preventing a stolen badge being used by a possible perpetrator to gain entrance.

The criminal planning cycle regarding a robbery entails: marking, intelligence gathering, surveillance, planning, tooling up, rehearsing/training, execution and getaway. "Too often", he explained, "a bank's security only goes into action during the "execution" stage." Companies and financial institutions should train their employees to be vigilant in recognizing the behavior of individuals involved in the earlier stages, such as surveillance and intelligence gathering, as well as giving them the sense of responsibility to act. "This last is essential," he emphasized. "A guard at the lowest level should not have to con-

tact a superior to stop and question a person who is a possible threat; they should be allowed that responsibility and initiative to act on the spot, or they will stop taking notice of possible threats."

It is important to also study and learn from past incidents, considering motives, timing, targets, scope, weapons used and other means. Not all security people should be uniformed and obvious, though the presence of what appear to be capable and alert armed, uniformed guards is effective. "The inability to learn who exactly is a part of the security team makes the adversary take into account a greater security presence than that being deployed in the protected environment." By paying attention to all these aspects of technology and personnel, a business can create a more effective deterrent to possible perpetrators by convincing them there are too many obstacles to overcome for a successful robbery.

Also, by training employees to recognize a "good guy" profile, what is the norm for legitimate clients, they will also be more astute at recognizing

variations to the norm. Though polite questioning may prove the deviation from the norm is harmless, those that are not will be deterred from their plans after having attracted the attention of security personnel.

Mr. Zehring advised applying an 80/20 rule "Before starting to look for the needle, remove some of the hay...Work with 80% of your screening resources for processing the 20% high-threat potential instances and expedite the flow of the remaining instances. He finally offered the advice not to continue existing security procedures, "simply because that is they way it has always been done." Those with the intent to commit a crime are continually evolving and improving their modus operandi, and so must those who are responsible for the security of their business or that of others.

Mr. Zehring demonstrated how easily those with harmful intent are bypassing security measure, both personal and commercial, with startling ease. His talk will be covered in more detail in the Monday, May 27th edition of THE MORNING NEWS.

By Rosalie Klein

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Conchi y Toro is favored by Caribbean Cinemas



Wine Manager and Maven Clive Faustin

"Concha y Toro Vintners felt the mystique of their fine vintages from the

Casillero del Diablo - "Devil's Wine Cellar," had all the makings of modern day cinemas magic, and are bringing it to big screens around the world, including the Caribbean Cinemas multiplex in Aruba's Palm Beach Plaza Mall.

Romar Trading is the exclusive distributor of Concha y Toro wines on Aruba, and their resident wine maven, announced on Thursday, May 23, the legend of the Castillero del Diablo vintages will have a presence in cinemas in 135 countries around the world, including Aruba. "The spot has a stylish script, in a modern format with high impact and great production values," he explained, "spreading the legend as a contemporary thriller, in a pure Hollywood style. The winery is proud of their entertaining cinematic effort, "The Legend Awakes," and are certain it will enhance the moviegoers' experience."

The main character of the video from Diablo Productions, is a daring thief who visits an exhibition of luxury pieces; he has the purpose of stealing only one of the prized objects: a bottle of Casillero del Diablo Cabernet Sauvignon. Six characters give life to this creation, and the public "can become part of the history," in any of five different languages, by visiting www.winelegendmovie.com, or become immersed in the tale on the big screen at Caribbean Cinemas in Palm Beach Plaza

WEB and Arubus to sign win-win agreement

ORANJESDAT -- One of the objectives of the government with respect to our public transport system is to improve the service and efficiency of Arubus. Last March electrical busses were inspected and found to be very economical.

During the Europe Meets the Americas Conference, Arubus signed a Letter of Intent with WEB to begin the process of cooperation between the two companies. The intention is for WEB to provide Arubus the electricity needed for the electric busses soon to be purchased. Both WEB's Director Oslin

Boekhoudt and Francis Ras in charge of the busses project commented on the benefits and advantages as well as on other aspects relevant to these electric busses for Aruba.

WEB has invested heavily in the past years upgrading the technology to produce water and electricity, which has enabled them to become substantially efficient. Providing charge services for the busses will be still another aspect of their efficiency. The busses will be charged during the night hours. In the evening WEB normally reduces her motors because the demand drops at night. At

night they can fill the void with these electrical busses. Also, since there is no bus transport during the midnight, the busses can be charged for 6 hours, while maintaining WEB's machines running producing a stable production which would provide for optimum efficiency.

One important aspect of this agreement is that it will be a definite win-win situation for both companies.

Arubus projects a savings of 30% on the cost of doing business. Consumers will also note the stabilization of the tariffs or a better tariff in the long run.

SOUL beach
13TH ANNUAL SOUL BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL
NO CAMERAS ALLOWED IN CONCERT VENUES

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

ARUBA WELCOME CELEBRATION
10pm - 3am, Confessions Nightclub (Palm Beach)
Featuring: DJ General Lee

THURSDAY, MAY 23

LIVE RADIO REMOTES
LASER 101 w/Gee Money SXM Radio
10am-2pm MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

WHUR Middays w/Triscina Grey
10am-3pm MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

Doug & DeDe Show
3pm-7pm Radisson Aruba Resort
Casino & Spa - Gilligan's (Palm Beach)

SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT
10am-3pm, (no entry fee)
MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)
Featuring: DJ General Lee

CARUBBIAN FESTIVAL
6pm-10pm, *San Nicolas
(Packages and info available at all DePalm Tours Hotel Desks)

NIGHTCLUB PARTY
11pm-3am, Hard Rock Café (Palm Beach)
Featuring: DJ General Lee

FRIDAY, MAY 24

MAIN SOURCE FITNESS BOOTCAMP
9am-10am; (no entry fee)
Westin Resort & Casino, Aruba-Poolside (Palm Beach)

LIVE RADIO REMOTE BROADCASTS
LASER 101 w/Gee Money SXM Radio
10am-2pm MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

WHUR Middays w/Triscina Grey
10am-3pm MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

Doug & DeDe Show
3pm-7pm Radisson Aruba Resort
Casino & Spa - Gilligan's (Palm Beach)

SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT
10am-3pm, (no entry fee), MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)
Featuring: DJ General Lee

COMEDY CONCERT
7pm-11pm
*Aruba Entertainment Center (Oranjestad)
(no cameras will be allowed into concert venues)

SINBAD
featuring Paige Bryan with Memphis Red and the Funk Stank Nasty Band

DAMON WILLIAMS

FRIDAY, MAY 24

NIGHTCLUB PARTY
11pm-3am, Nikky Beach Club (Oranjestad)
Featuring: DJ Frank Ski

SATURDAY, MAY 25

MAIN SOURCE FITNESS BOOT CAMP
9am-10am, (no entry fee)
Westin Resort & Casino, Aruba -Poolside (Palm Beach)

SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT
10am-3pm
(no entry fee), MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)
Featuring: DJ General Lee

MAIN STAGE CONCERT
7pm-11pm
*Soul Beach Amphitheater adjacent to Nikky Beach Club (Oranjestad)
(no cameras will be allowed into concert venues)

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NIGHTCLUB PARTY
11:30pm-3am, Nikky Beach Club (Oranjestad)
Featuring: DJ 2uestlove

SUNDAY, MAY 26

SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT
10am-3pm, (no entry fee), *Baby Beach (San Nicolas)
Featuring: DJ General Lee

MAIN STAGE CONCERT
7pm-11pm
*Soul Beach Amphitheater adjacent to Nikky Beach Club (Oranjestad)
(no cameras will be allowed into concert venues)

NE-YO
ELLE VARNER
LE GROOVE
For Pre-Show dinner reservations inside venue (after doors open)
contact: Barefoot Restaurant 588-9824

NIGHTCLUB PARTY
11:30pm-3am, Nikky Beach Club (Oranjestad)
Featuring: DJ Outkast

MONDAY, MAY 27

BODY & SOUL BEACH SPA & GOLF DAY
10am-3pm, Tierra del Sol Resort, Spa & Country Club –
Aruba (Malmok), Cool Down Pool Party

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Jerk Pork

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Hard Rock Cafe Aruba is proud to welcome inspirational speaker Maickel Melamed



With the entire Hard Rock Crew

This past week, for two days, Hard Rock Cafe Aruba was pleased to host a Regional Sales & Marketing Conference for staff members of Latin American Hard Rock franchises. The sessions conducted at the Occidental Re-

sort ended with a "gift" to their employees, an address by the motivational speaker Maickel Melamed, a living example of what can be accomplished with determination and tenacity.

Maickel suffered severe physical trauma during birth because of the umbilical cord being wrapped around his neck. Doctors at the time informed his parents they did not expect him to survive the week; that was in 1975. He suffers from a condition called Hypotonia, a general lack of muscle tone, what the doctors described as "muscle retardation." This debilitating physical condition did not hold him back from "daring to dream," and taking whatever steps necessary to realize those dreams. He attended university, studying economics, and

excelled as a student and student leader. He is self supporting as a financial advisor and motivational speaker. In 2009, he decided he wanted to compete in the New York Marathon. He trains daily and on his third attempt in 2011, completed the full race. It is his ambition to finish in every one of the worldwide "Grand Slam" of marathons, New York, Boston, Chicago, Berlin and London. Among his

physical accomplishments is also climbing the highest mountain in Venezuela, Bolívar Peak, 5,007 meters (16,427 ft or 3 miles) high.

Maickel was on Aruba with his good friend, Perla Sananas and Personal Assistant, Gallo Bermeo. He was kind enough to sit with one of THE MORNING NEWS reporters Rosalie Klein for an exclusive interview before returning to his home in Venezuela.

TMN: How supportive were your parents when you were a child? Did they encourage you to test yourself physically or were they too over-protective?

MM: Many people thank their parents for standing beside them. I am grateful for my parents, for not hovering over me, they were so encouraging, almost risky. They let me be; they let me make mistakes. They let me be myself, explore myself; all my limits, but all my possibilities. This was really brave.

TMN: You mention in



Perla, Maickel, Hard Rock Mgr Mauritzio, Hard Rock owner Luis Anez, and Gallo

your talks that at the age of 13, doctors informed you that you would never be able to do anything physical. You state that until the age of 25, you let that hold you back. What changed your mind set? Is this when you started running and training for marathons?

MM: No, the marathons came later, when I was 33, and I started to dream about the marathons. Since I was 22, I decided to let me return to my body again, to listen to myself. Until that time, I was living like a half-man, because I was listening to other people, who told me I wouldn't be able to do anything. I felt like half myself, not believing in myself.

It wasn't an epiphany, it was more of a process. It wasn't one moment that I had a revelation, it took time, it was a process to fall in love with myself, to fall in love with my possibilities, and to break all the rules that I was constructing for myself, with the bricks that everyone else was giving me.

TMN: What is the most fun for you? What things do you enjoy doing?

MM: Drinking coffee. Listening to interesting people. Sharing and discovering people; knowing a new thing. The melody is a great adventure, I look to find the melody. Human behavior, human development and human relationships, are so passionate. For me, it is all about how we relate to each other.

TMN: What inspired you to become a motivational speaker?

MM: 1999 was a difficult time for me, there was terrible disaster in my country. (Venezuela suffered terrible rains, floods and mudslides, killing tens of thousands of people.) At that time, I was coming back from London, I had missed my country and people so very much, and they were dying. I asked myself "What can I do for them?" I was so depressed, because I thought I could do nothing.

Continued on pg 5



Maickel running a marathon

Pair of Japan melons fetch \$15,700

TOKYO (AFP) - A pair of cantaloupe melons sold at auction in Japan on Friday for 1.6 million yen (\$15,730), one of the highest prices ever paid for the coveted orange-fleshed fruit.

A local fruit wholesaler snapped up the 3.7-kilogramme (8.1-pound) Yubari melons at the high-end fruit and vegetable sale, which took place on the first day of the season for the prestigious melons.

It was the third-highest price ever paid for the luxury melon brand and cost the equivalent of splashing out on a small car.

In a country where a single apple can cost more than \$5 and a presentation pack of 20 cherries sells for over \$100, Japanese shoppers are used to paying high prices for their fruit.

But the eye-watering figures paid at the Sapporo Central Wholesale Market in northern Hokkaido reflect buyers' desire for prestige.

Yubari melons are considered a status symbol in Japan like a fine wine, with many buyers presenting them as a gift to friends and colleagues.

A pair sold at auction for a record 2.5 million yen in 2008, partially due to a degree of sympathy for the town of Yubari that produces the melons and which went bust in 2007.

The best-quality Yubari melons are perfect spheres with a smooth, evenly patterned rind. A T-shaped stalk is left on the fruit, which is usually sold in an ornate box.

Hard Rock Cafe Aruba is proud to welcome inspirational speaker Maickel ... Continued from pg 4

I helped, but it was just what everyone else was doing; it was not my real power.

I then made a promise to myself to discover what I have to give, what is my unique gift that would make me valuable for my country, my people, and my world. My world, because I believe we are here for a reason, and I had to find it. That was the beginning of my adventure, to make what I am, create what I am, to discover what I am. Through my speaking, I

accompany people to discover their own way, their purpose.

TMN: So you are a guide, but not leading them by the nose, but assisting them to discover their own unique options?

MM: That's right. THEIR options, not MY options. I open their eyes to their new way; presenting, sometimes, their first mirror, for them to see their true reflection. I create a bond, showing them I love and care a lot.

TMN: What prompted you to start running marathons?

MM: I was sitting in a Hard Rock Cafe listening to the great words of Bono of the band U2; he said, "If we can do it, we must do it." So if we discover we can run, we must do it. We also discovered that when I run, other people are inspired to try and realize their own dreams, as well... Training to complete the New York Marathon was a long journey, full of falls,

full of obstacles, full of non-believers, but it was a really passionate journey.

After his interview in the Hard Rock Cafe in Palm Beach, Maickel expressed his delight with his Aruban sojourn, pointing out that his sunburned face was a visible demonstration of how much he enjoyed the balmy climate. It was his first visit to the island, and he thought "the people, the landscape and the sea were absolutely amazing." He very much en-

joyed his early morning runs and swims, while training for the upcoming marathons.

"We are honored to be here sharing with the people and the human possibilities," he concluded.

When asked about his training regimen and diet, he described it as nothing that unusual from other athletes, but at the core is the determination to succeed. "You have to be disciplined, and wish. When the desire is more than the obligation, you do it!"

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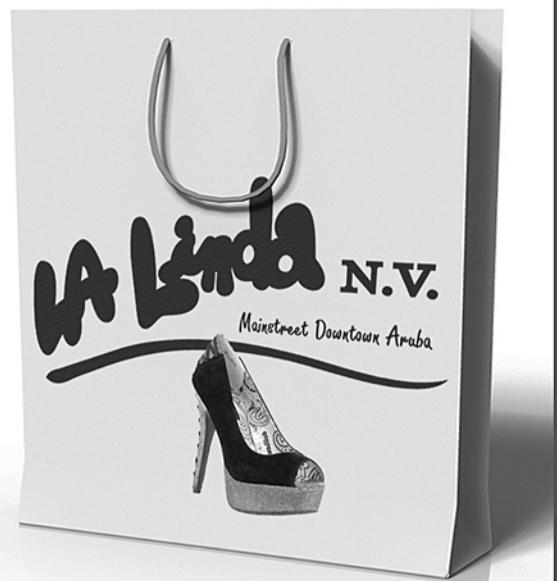


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N. Korea slams S. Korea leader as 'confrontation maniac'

SEOUL, South Korea (AFP) - North Korea Friday accused South Korean President Park Geun-Hye of hurting the dignity of its leadership and slammed her as "a confrontation maniac".

The warning came a day after Park denounced North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un for "playing a gamble to escalate tension" on the Korean peninsula.

The North's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea, responsible for inter-Korean ties, said Park had attempted to "bar the situation from leading to detente".

Park said Thursday that

North Korea's new policy of pursuing economic construction and the building of nuclear force together would "never" succeed.

Park "unhesitatingly let loose such malignant invectives as daring hurt the dignity of (the North's) supreme leadership, fully revealing her true colours as a confrontation maniac", the committee said.

The North, angered by United Nations sanctions sparked by its nuclear test in February and joint South-US military drills, has stoked tensions for months with blistering threats of nuclear war against Seoul and Washington.

Obama honors victims of civil rights-era church bombing



UNITED STATES, Washington : US President Barack Obama speaks before signing the Congressional Gold Medal Bill honoring Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson and Cynthia Wesley on May 24, 2013 in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington. The girls were killed in the September 15, 1963 bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. The racially-motivated attack was a turning point in the US civil rights movement and contributed to support for passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The signing was attended by US Attorney General Eric Holder (2nd L) and his wife Sharon Malone (L).

AFP PHOTO/Nicholas KAMM

Kerry to meet Lavrov, Fabius for Syria talks in Paris

Continued from pg 1

Meanwhile, Syria's main opposition group entered a second day of talks aimed at finding an approach to the Russian-US peace push to get all the sides to participate in international talks that have been dubbed "Geneva 2".

Following the Russian announcement, the opposition urged Assad's government to speak out on whether it will take part in the conference.

"This (Monday) meeting will represent another step towards the organisation of the conference, but there will need to be clarifications regarding the Syrian delegations and the mandate that will be given to them," the diplomatic source said.

"Moscow for instance will have to bring clarifications on the 'in principle' agreement given by Damascus."

The first Geneva meeting, last June, ended in a broad agreement aimed at forming a transition government in Syria and introducing a long-lasting truce.

But the deal was never implemented because of disagreements over what role President Bashar al-Assad might have in the new government and neither side's decision to lay down their arms.

The proposed peace conference, which some media reports say has tentatively been scheduled for June 10, aims to put an end to more than two years of bloodshed that has killed more than 90,000 people.

The conference was jointly proposed by Russia, a key backer of Assad, and the United States, which supports the rebels fighting to overthrow him.

Right and left fight for Rome in Italy local elections

ROME (AFP) - Italy's scandal-tainted former premier Silvio Berlusconi and anti-establishment firebrand Beppe Grillo rallied on Friday ahead of local elections this weekend in a key test for the parties behind Prime Minister Enrico Letta's grand coalition government.

In Rome, the fiercest battle is between Berlusconi's People of Freedom party and Letta's Democratic Party, competing to lead a city plagued with social woes, public transport problems and a waste disposal crisis.

Incumbent mayor Gianni Alemanno faces off against Democratic Party candidate Ignazio Marino, a former surgeon who is two points ahead with 35 percent of the vote, according to the most recent opinion polls.

Several thousand people crowded at the Colosseum in Rome to cheer Alemanno and Berlusconi, who took to the stage as smoke flares in the colours of the flag were set off.

Media magnate Berlusconi, whose popularity is on the rise in the polls, urged

people to use their votes to stop the centre-left winning.

"The left has just been about social gatherings, parties and sequins. They have forgotten the city's problems and abandoned the suburbs," he said.

Alemanno, a former neofascist, told the crowds: "In a moment of economic crisis,

the biggest in the post-war period, we have avoided bankruptcy and saved Rome!"

His rival Marino has promised to give 10,000 unemployed young people who follow job training courses a 500-euro (\$647) a month allowance and to drastically improve the transport system by expanding the tram and metro network.

Marino also says he will give the Eternal City a more transparent system of financial management, accusing his predecessor of hiding the accounts and the scale of the city's debt problem.

"We will bring about the transparency, honesty and culture Rome merits," he said, addressing flag-waving crowds in the Eternal City's Piazza San Giovanni.

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International News

Court hearing postponed for Boston bomb suspect



BOSTON (AFP) - A first court hearing for Boston Marathon bomb suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev has been pushed back to from July 2 to July 10, prosecutors announced on Friday.

Officials in Boston said both defense and prosecution attorneys had petitioned the court to postpone the hearing so that they could have more time to prepare.

Tsarnaev, 19, faces life im-

prisonment or the death penalty if convicted on terrorism and other charges following last month's twin bombings at the Boston Marathon, which he allegedly carried out with his older brother Tamerlan, 26.

Tamerlan Tsarnaev died in a gun battle with police three days after the April 15 bombings that killed three people and injured more than 260 at the marathon finish line.

Ecuador's President Correa sworn to second term

QUITO (AFP) - Ecuador's hugely popular leftist president, Rafael Correa, was sworn in to a second term Friday, with energy reform and expanded overseas trade topping his agenda.

Correa, 50, took the oath of office at a ceremony held before the federal legislature attended by various foreign leaders and dignitaries, including Haitian President Michel Martelly, Spain's Crown Prince Felipe and Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili.

For the first time, a woman, the legislature's speaker Gabriela Rivadeneira, administered the oath of office, as she proclaimed that Correa "was legally in possession of the powers of the presidency of the Republic of Ecuador."

The US- and Belgian-educated economist -- an outspoken populist in the mold of his late mentor Hugo Chavez of Venezuela -- has brought stability to a country that went through eight presidents, three of whom were ousted, in the decade before he was first elected in 2006.



Correa won a landslide victory in February's vote, and shortly thereafter won a rare majority in Congress, giving him a strong hand to implement reforms in sectors such as energy, agriculture, mining, justice and the media. He also plans heavy spending on infrastructure and socially-oriented investment.

His approval rating is as high as 86 percent, according to a survey by pollsters Perfiles de Opinion. He has ruled out seeking a third term, however.

Ecuador, a country of some 16 million people that belongs

to OPEC but is its smallest member, is heavily dependent on oil revenue, and Correa has said finding more crude is essential to its future.

The country has proven reserves of 7.2 billion barrels but is short on refining capacity. So Correa wants to build a new refinery and has also opened a tender process for 16 tracts of the Amazon with an eye to finding crude.

At the same time, to ease dependence on fossil fuels, he has announced plans to construct eight dams to produce electricity, with an investment of five billion dollars.

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Health & Living

Researcher admits mistakes in stem cell study

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A blockbuster study in which US researchers reported that they had turned human skin cells into embryonic stem cells contained errors, its lead author has acknowledged.

Shoukhrat Mitalipov nevertheless adamantly stood by the conclusions of the study published last week in journal Cell, which reported that human stem cell lines for the first time had been created via cloning.

The journal Nature contacted Mitalipov after an anonymous online critic on PubPeer spotted four separate problems in the paper.

In an interview with Nature, Mitalipov confirmed that three errors were made in the rush to publish -- but denied the fourth issue raised was an error and said the overall conclusions were unaffected.

"The results are real, the cell lines are real, everything is real," said Mitalipov, a reproductive biology specialist at

the Oregon Health and Science University in Beaverton.

"I personally made the cells," he said. "I saw them grow into colonies."

He blamed the errors on his rush to publish the research, which he hoped to present next month at the International Society for Stem Cell Research meeting. "Maybe it was rushed," he said. "It was my mistake."

Mitalipov said his research team will be issuing an erratum correcting the flaws, and hopes that other scientists will try to duplicate his findings, which will lend it even more credibility.

"The first thing we want to do is have people confirm our results," Mitalipov said. "We are not hiding these cell lines."

The scientific community was divided as to how seriously to view the errors.

Robin Lovell-Badge, who heads the Division of Stem Cell Biology and Developmental Genetics at the MRC National Institute for Medical Research in London, warned

against a rush to condemn.

"I expect the errors above were also due to the rush to publish. The authors should be given a chance to answer and correct mistakes," he told Nature.

Others said they were surprised that Cell accepted the paper in just days -- a time they deemed insufficient for proper peer review.

The cloning method written about in the article was described as an important breakthrough because it does not destroy embryos in creating the type of stem cell that can morph into any other type of cell in the body.

The technique involves transplanting an individual's DNA into an egg cell that has been stripped of genetic material, a variation of a method called somatic cell nuclear transfer.

Scientists said the research could one day offer new pathways in the fight against Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injuries and blindness.

GENEVA (AFP) - Saudi Arabia said Friday it would send samples taken from animals possibly infected with a deadly SARS-like virus to the United States for testing in a bid to find the source of disease.

The Saudi health ministry has "collected large samples from bats and other animals, including camels, sheep and cats," said Saudi Deputy Health Minister Ziad Memish.

So far, there have been 44

lab-confirmed cases worldwide of the virus, which until now has been known as the novel coronavirus, or nCoV-EMC, but was this week redubbed the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus, or MERS.

Saudi Arabia counts by far the most cases, with 30 confirmed infections and 17 fatalities, while cases have also been detected in Jordan, Qatar, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Germany, Britain and France.

Memish told diplomats gathered in Geneva for the World Health Assembly, the decision-making body of the World Health Organization, that his country until now had not been able to send samples from animals besides bats to the United States.

Bats were also pinpointed as a likely natural reservoir for SARS in a 2005 study, and are known carriers of the deadly haemorrhagic fever Ebola.

The WHO said Friday that much uncertainty remained surrounding MERS, stressing that it aimed to work closely with Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and perhaps other Middle Eastern countries to determine how great the risk is.

WHO spokesman Gregory Haertl told reporters it was not possible to patent the actual virus, but rather "the work based on the viral sequence that a lab generates," which is what the scientists at the Erasmus Medical Centre in the Netherlands had done.

That lab however appeared to have openly shared its sequencing with a number of other labs, he said.



HONG KONG (AFP) - A man (R) weighs a chicken in a poultry market in Hong Kong on May 24, 2013. According to local reports, the H7N9 bird flu virus can be transmitted not only through close contact but by airborne exposure, a team at the University of Hong Kong found after extensive laboratory experiments.

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Sci-Tech

Source of life running out: water scientists

PARIS (AFP) - The majority of people on Earth people will face severe water shortages within a generation or two if pollution and waste continues unabated, scientists warned at a conference in Bonn Friday.

"This handicap will be self-inflicted and is, we believe entirely avoidable," read a document entitled The Bonn Declaration issued at the close of the four-day international huddle.

The conference sought to assess the evidence of Man's impact on freshwater resources, which constitute only 2.5 percent of the total volume of water on Earth.

Currently, an estimated third of the world's seven million people has limited access to adequate fresh water, according to conference delegates.

"In the short span of one or two generations, the majority of the nine billion people on Earth will be living under the handicap of severe pressure on fresh water," said the declaration.

The nine billion mark is widely projected to be reached from about 2040.

"We are flying the red flag out of our conference here," Charles Vorosmarty, co-chairman of the Global Water System Project research body that hosted the meeting, said in a teleconference from Bonn.

The declaration points out that humanity uses an area the

size of South America to grow crops and another the size of Africa to raise livestock.

Two-thirds of major river deltas are sinking due to groundwater extraction, and tens of thousands of large dams are distorting natural river flows on which ecosystems have depended for millennia.

Much damage is being done by river pollution from sewer drainage or agricultural fertiliser and pesticide use.

Already, about a billion people around the world are dependent on finite water supplies being depleted at a fast rate, said Vorosmarty, who made a plea for more financial and technical resources for research.

UN-Water, a coordinating body for water efforts by UN groups, says Earth has about 35 million cubic kilometres (eight million cubic miles) of fresh water -- 70 percent of it locked up in ice and permanent snow cover.

Thirty percent of freshwater is stored underground in groundwater, which constitutes 97 percent of all freshwater potentially available for human use.

About 0.3 percent is found in lakes and rivers.

Experts say some 3,800 cubic kilometres of fresh water are extracted from aquatic ecosystems around the world each year, partly as a result of global warming.

Google eyes emerging markets networks: report

NEW YORK (AFP) - Google has become deeply involved in a series of projects to build and operate wireless networks in emerging markets including sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, a report said Friday.

The Wall Street Journal, citing unnamed sources, reported the effort is part of a plan that could connect a billion or more new people to the Internet.

Google did not immediately respond to an AFP request to comment on the report.

According to the report, Google is "deep in the throes" of the effort to build wireless networks for people outside major cities where wired Internet connections are scarce.

It said Google plans to team up with local companies in some of the countries to develop the networks, and formulate business models to support them.

In some cases, the newspaper said, Google plans to provide its own recently developed wireless technologies to help such networks.

Google has launched an ultrafast fiber network in the Kansas City area and is working in other areas of the United States on creating powerful Wi-Fi networks.

The Journal said that in the emerging markets, Google is seeking to create an ecosystem using new microprocessors and low-cost smartphones powered by its Android mobile operating system.

The system could also use balloons or blimps to transmit signals for the networks.

The daily said Google has begun discussions with regulators in countries including South Africa and Kenya on changing rules to allow the use of airwaves reserved for TV broadcasts.

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Bad weather in Western Europe likely to continue into June

PARIS (AFP) - France's meteorological centre said Friday that the winter-like weather that has gripped much of Western Europe was likely to continue into June.

With snow in the plains of Switzerland, record cold in the Netherlands and a distinct lack of sunshine in France and Germany, meteorologists say Western Europe is suffering from "exceptional" weather

for this time of year.

According to Meteo France, the country's meteorological centre, Western Europe could experience a brief respite from the bad weather at the weekend, but there will be no marked improvement for the next 10 days at least.

Unseasonal rain has also pummelled several countries, disturbing events such as the Cannes Film Festival in

France.

The temperature fell to 3.7 degrees Celsius (38.6 Fahrenheit) in Paris on Friday morning, the lowest temperature recorded on that day since 1887. The Netherlands has also experienced similar bouts of cold.

Germans, meanwhile, are getting 50 percent less sunshine than they would at this time of year.

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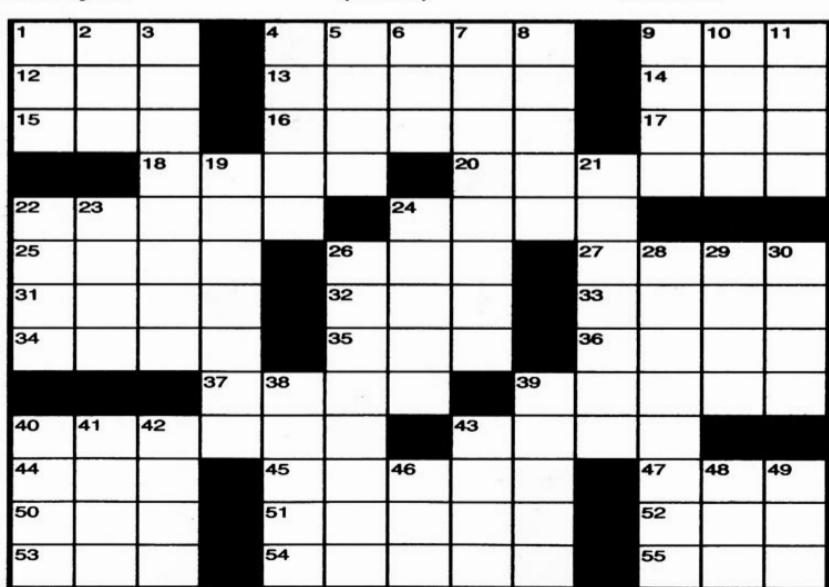


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ACROSS

1. ___ the record
4. Hair-raising
9. Letters after R
12. Shoe width
13. Triplets number
14. Faux ___
15. Cousin, aunt, or uncle (abbr.)
16. Sloping ways
17. British beverage
18. Fail to include
20. Eyed



- villainously
22. Increased (2 wds.)
24. "___ Rider"
25. WWII alliance
26. Apple computer
27. Wyatt of the West
31. Weirdo
32. Wide rdwy.
33. Smudge
34. Russia between 1917 and 1991 (abbr.)
35. Primary color
36. Type of saxophone
37. Parts of speech (abbr.)

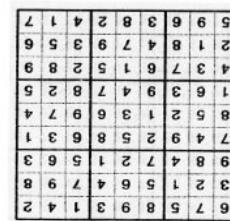
39. Embrace
40. Small café
43. Child's toy
44. DDE's military arena
45. Golfer Palmer
47. Dated
50. Decade count
51. Track and ___
52. Previously named
53. Author Tan
54. River ducks
55. Common abbr.

DOWN

1. Poet's "above"
2. Service charge
3. Big-time crimes
4. Gaza or Sunset

5. Light conversation
6. Supply weapons
7. Supplanted
8. Agreements
9. Box
10. Yarn
11. Manipulated
19. "___ Love" (1976 hit)
21. Look over, informally
22. Prego's competition
23. Lumberjacks' tools
24. Roofs' overhangs
26. "___ Morningstar"
28. Berlin tune (2 wds.)
29. Channels
30. Brace
38. Air current
39. Female college students, once
40. ___ carotene
41. Detail
42. Name in TVs
43. Pickle spice
46. Teacher's group (abbr.)
48. Permitted
49. Christmas's mo.

SOLUTION



Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is never repeated in a row or column. In addition, every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.



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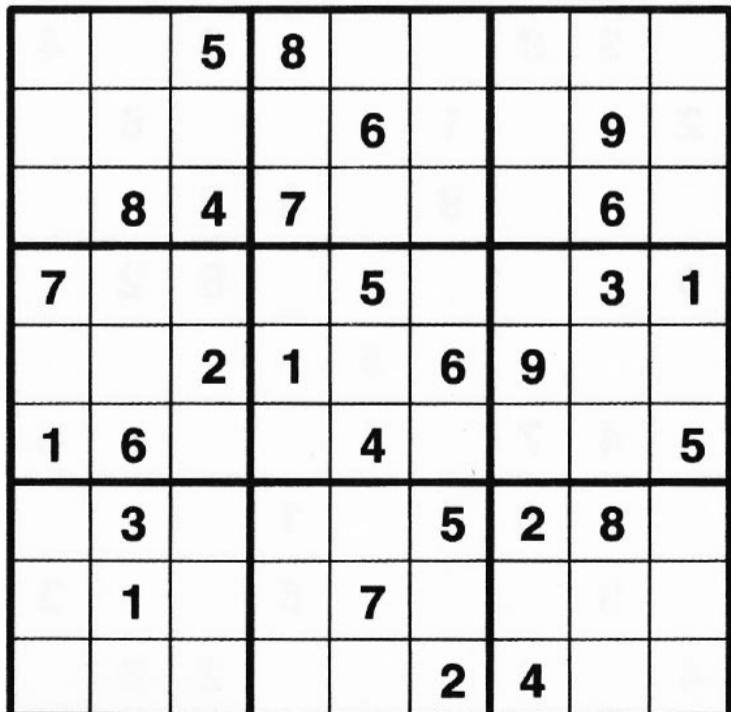
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Sudoku



Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is never repeated in a row or column. In addition, every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.



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Finance



Blanquefort: AFP photo shows technicians checking crankcases of Fox engine, stocked in a rack before being mounted, in a new unit of US manufacturer Ford plant in Blanquefort, southwestern France, where production is to be launched in early July. (AFP PHOTO)

'Furlough Friday' hits US federal employees

WASHINGTON, (AFP) - The first day of US government furloughs imposed by a budget crunch saw more than 100,000 federal workers ordered to stay home yesterday, including those at the scandal-plagued IRS.

The largest non-weather-related US government closure in years saw nearly all emplo-

ees at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Environmental Protection Agency, the White House's Office of Management and Budget and the Internal Revenue Service placed on unpaid leave.

The total number of furloughed personnel amounts to roughly 115,000, some five percent of the federal workforce, an administration official said.

The closure is the first of what is expected to be several holidays without pay ordered by federal authorities as they contend with a package of across-the-board spending cuts known as sequestration.

The \$85 billion in cuts took effect on March 1, and while lawmakers passed legislation allowing some flexibility to determine which military programs get spared the axe, sequestration cuts government spending by five percent.

In the Pentagon the cuts are deeper -- about eight percent -- and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has warned that his civilian staff of some 800,000 will be furloughed for 11 days this year, with the first day on July 8.

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IMF chief avoids charges in French payout scandal

PARIS (AFP) - IMF chief Christine Lagarde avoided immediate charges yesterday but was named an "assisted witness" after French prosecutors grilled her for two days over a state payout to a disgraced tycoon when she was finance minister.

Lagarde was questioned for a total of 24 hours by prosecutors working for a court that probes cases of ministerial misconduct over her 2007 handling of a row that resulted in 400 million euros (\$515 million) being paid to controversial business figure Bernard Tapie.

"My status as assisted witness is not a surprise," she told



reporters as she left the Paris courthouse late yesterday.

"I have always acted in the best public interest and in accordance with the law," said Lagarde, 57, who has consistently denied any wrongdoing.

"My explanations came as a response to the doubts that had

been brought up regarding the decisions I had taken at the time," she added.

While Lagarde avoided being placed under formal investigation -- the closest equivalent in French law to being charged -- her "assisted witness" status means she could still face further questions -- and possibly charges -- at a later stage.

Lagarde said she would now return to Washington and report to the board of the International Monetary Fund, which again expressed confidence in its first woman leader after learning of the court's decision.

Bausch & Lomb near \$9 bn sale to Valeant

NEW YORK (AFP) - Canadian pharmaceutical company Valeant is close to a deal to acquire US eye health company Bausch & Lomb for about \$9 billion, a person familiar with the matter said yesterday.

A deal could come as soon as next week, the person said.

Unless the deal falls apart, the transaction will replace a plan launched in March for Bausch & Lomb to undertake an initial public offering.

The takeover talks were first reported yesterday by The Wall Street Journal.

Contacted by AFP, spokespeople for Valeant and Bausch

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



& Lomb declined to comment on the potential deal.

Founded in 1853, privately held Bausch & Lomb, based in Rochester, New York, is best known for its contact lenses and for products related to maintaining contact lenses, such as PureVision, Optima and ReNu.

The company also manufactures eye drops for treating

eye dryness, glaucoma or allergies and materials used in eye surgery.

The potential Bausch & Lomb deal would come on the heels of Valeant's reportedly unsuccessful bid to buy US pharmaceutical company Actavis for more than \$13 billion.

Valeant shares closed Friday at \$84.47 in New York, up 13.1 percent.

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At Cannes, pain and loss of migration come to the fore



CANNES (AFP) - They set off with dreams of a new life only to find that peril, exploitation, loneliness and an aching rootlessness often await them.

Migration, one of the great issues of globalisation but one that until now has been poorly explored at the movies, has emerged as a major theme at the Cannes Film Festival.

A frontrunner for the coveted Palme d'Or on Sunday is "Tian Zhu Ding", a brutal portrayal of peasants who head to the cities for work in the capitalist-communist China of today.

People struggle to keep their souls as they work in garment factories owned by greedy foreign bosses, and flounder in their relationships with distant families. To live with dignity, violence is their only choice -- a theme that also runs through "wuxia" martial arts movies.

"The wuxia films are what gave me the inspiration," director Jia Zhangke told AFP. Desperation and violence also lie at the core of "The Immigrant", in which Marion Cotillard stars as

a devout Catholic Polish immigrant, who arrives at New York's Ellis Island in the 1920s and becomes ensnared in prostitution.

Director James Gray said he wanted to make the movie as a period piece, reminding people today that immigrants may be despised when they arrive, but they eventually become accepted as part of a nation's wealth.

"(Immigration) is one of the most important aspects of a dynamic culture," he told a press conference. "It enriches a society. It doesn't debase society."

Other films, also well-received, touch on the plight of clandestine immigrants.

"La Jaula de Oro" (The Cage of Gold), by Mexican-based Spanish director Diego Quemada-Diez, tells the odyssey of teenagers desperate to cross into the United States.

Quemada-Diez said he was drawn to make the film after speaking to migrants who had braved violence, theft and arrest in their quest for the land of gold.

At the movies, violence is the new sex

CANNES (AFP) - Sex may be a turn-off for Hollywood audiences but violence is all over the big screen, as filmmakers seek to capture the youth market, industry figures at the Cannes film festival said on Friday.

With online porn readily available, sex scenes are no longer prized by producers who look to action sequences or special effects to fill the gap.

"The Paperboy" in which Nicole Kidman played a woman sexually attracted to Death Row prisoners and the sex surrogate film "The Sessions" with Helen Hunt are examples of recent films with sex that flopped at the box office.

Michael Lavey, of the Los Angeles-based sales agents Taylor & Dodge, told AFP the need to pull in younger audiences was driving an ex-

plosion of violence on our screens.

"I think that young kids are just immune to violence. It's video games, it's almost (as if) you've got to have some violence for them to go (to the cinema)," he said.

"Directors could be more restrained (in their use of violence) but the smart ones are going to do what people like me say works. If they're open to that feedback they're going to make money," he added.

A number of films screened at Cannes over the past 10 days -- including China's "A Touch of Sin" (Tian Zhu Ding) and Japan's "Shield of Straw" (Wara No Tate) -- have shocked audiences with their levels of violence.

Mexican director Amat Escalante was forced on the defensive after his ultra-violent film "Heli" left many critics

feeling queasy.

Nicolas Winding Refn's "Only God Forgives" was equally blood-spattered with one critic describing it as a "sickening pornography of violence".

Many at a press screening found the Bangkok-set revenge drama starring the bankable Ryan Gosling almost unwatchable.

Gratuitous violence would appear to have replaced gratuitous sex as a marketing tool.

Sex scenes were once written into scripts "no matter what the plot", Vincent Brizzese, president of the film division of market research company Ipsos, was quoted as saying earlier this year by Britain's Sunday Times newspaper.

But now producers tended to ask "do we really need the sex? Can we fill the space



Nicole Kidman in "The Paperboy"

with special effects instead and keep the family-friendly rating?", he added.

Indian director Dibakar Banerjee said he preferred films that used only violence essential to character and plot such as Martin Scorsese's "Raging Bull".

"That film is about a violent man who deals with everything in his life through one answer, one response. That violence is necessary.

French-born Australian filmmaker Chantal Denoux urged directors to remember the power of what was not shown.

"Hitchcock never shows anything but we are terrified. If the shower scene (in "Psycho") was made today we would see blood everywhere. I think the imagination is more important," she said.

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Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Keshi Yena with plaintains, vegetables and pica

-- An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varella Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming

eateries their loyal clientele. Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of

chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses of Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or



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Helping disabled children Two athletes with an incredible goal will participate in the Curaçao Marathon



--Two Aruban athletes have practiced hard for the upcoming Curaçao Marathon, which is held this Sunday, May 26. The marathon forms part of their training program for the Ironman challenge in Zürich, Switzerland. Physical trainer Lars Stolk (31) and teacher Mario Nooijen (40) are swimming, biking and running as often as they can to prepare for the upcoming trial of strength in Zürich, which doubles as a selection platform for 60 qualifying slots for the 2013 Ironman World Championships in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. 2350 Athletes have qualified to swim the 3.8 kilometer, bike the 180 kilometer and run the marathon of 42.295 kilometer

within the set time-limit in Zürich on July, 28. The winner will finish in about 8 and a half hours; Lars and Mario will be happy with a time of 11 hours. The two Arubans have called their participation in the Ironman event 'Run for a Charity' with a definite goal in mind. They want to collect enough money to be able to purchase a special bus so that the disabled children and young adults of Aruba may be transported to their therapy sessions, to swimming lessons and other activities, so they, who are trapped in non- or little-functioning bodies, can get more out of life. Running locally held 10K's with children in their special wheelchairs

was already a big hit on the island-- now they are moving forward to bigger things, starting with the marathon in Curaçao, which consists of an Olympic distance: 1500 meters swimming, 40K biking and 10K running.

Lars and Mario have joined forces with the Mi Por foundation, which aids parents and challenged children in various ways. Creating awareness is one of the foundation's goals; many people are not aware of the dire circumstances and hardships that exist in families with disabled children. Improving the children's lives is what the effort and connected fundraising motivates these two athletes, who are very grateful for the generous sponsoring of their hotel room at the Renaissance Curaçao Resort and Casino, sponsoring by the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) and Insel Air tickets. Of course they are fully and enthusiastically supported by the Mi Por clients who are rooting for their heroes. Lars and Mario are slowly but surely nearing the magic amount of AWG. 83.000,-- which is needed to buy the bus.

For more information please go to FaceBook; www.facebook.com/zurich2013 and follow Lars and Mario's progress.

Contact:

- Lars Stolk
Sabana Liber 257- cel 5927256 and/or
- Mario Nooijen
Sabana Liber 42a - cel 5937801
email: marioaruba@setarnet.aw

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SPORTS

Boxing: Gloves off as Froch raises Kessler bout stakes



Carl Froch (left) hits Mikkel Kessler during their super-middleweight fight in Herning, on April 24, 2010

LONDON (AFP) - There had been a refreshing absence of vitriolic exchanges between Carl Froch and Mikkel Kessler until this week, when Froch declared he is prepared to "kill" his super-middleweight rival in the ring on today.

Unusually in modern-day boxing, there had been no trash talk or insults thrown by Englishman Froch or his Danish opponent ahead of their world title unification fight.

That did not stop 18,000 tickets being sold in just three hours for the rematch at the O2 Arena in London.

There is also pay-per-view television to sell, but Froch's outburst at Wednesday's pre-bout press conference was nonetheless shocking in its intensity.

"On Saturday night, if I have to, I will kill this fucker," Froch said. "Sorry about the language, but I will kill him. It sounds brutal, it sounds horrible, but that is what this means to me. I am going to leave it in the ring and when I am smashing his face in, I am going to go for the kill. I am going to go for the finish."

Froch later put the outburst down to his emotions "running

high", and his words were certainly at odds with the friendship that has developed between the boxers since they met on a promotional tour for the Super Six tournament in 2009.

As part of that competition, Kessler out-pointed Froch in Denmark in April 2010, but afterwards they resumed contact.

For Froch, this is bigger than any of his previous 32 fights in a professional career that has seen him contest nine world title bouts.

The 35-year-old has suffered two defeats; the first to Kessler and then, in December 2011, on points to American Andre Ward, who is considered the division's number one.

Avenging one of those losses is the International Boxing Federation (IBF) champion's main motivation against Kessler, the World Boxing Association (WBA) title-holder.

Kessler, whose mother is English, believes Froch has more pressure on him due to the home crowd and his own bold promises.

The 34-year-old Dane will not have many supporters in London, but says fighting at home is a two-edged sword for Froch.

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Golf: Defending champ Donald crashes out at Wentworth

WENTWORTH (AFP) - Italy's Francesco Molinari leads the way after two rounds of the European PGA Championship here at Wentworth but several of his European Ryder Cup team mates missed the cut.

Molinari shot a second round 68, four-under par, to head the field after making four birdies in his last eight holes to be sitting pretty in the clubhouse by lunchtime.

A cluster of players finished a shot back from Molinari, whose brother Edoardo was two-under, including South Africa's George Coetzee, Marc Warren of Scotland, Mark Foster from England and Spain's Alejandro Canizares.

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Francesco Molinari watches his drive from the 8th tee on Friday.

A grandstand finish from English youngster Eddie Pepperell, who birdied the last four holes, got himself to four-under alongside another Italian, Matteo Manassero.

The deteriorating weather meant few players were likely to challenge Molinari's mark at the top of the leaderboard in the afternoon and Graeme McDowell, Rory McIlroy, Ian Poulter and defending champion Luke Donald all failed to make the weekend.

The cut fell at two-under

par and Justin Rose birdied the par-5 18th to just get in on the mark but 75s for McIlroy and McDowell scuppered their chances.

The pair finished on 149, five over par with another Ryder Cup player, Paul Lawrie two shots better off on 147 but still heading home.

Lee Westwood, however, was another early finisher who made the cut easily finishing on three-under par, the same score as Ernie Els and the winner here in 2010, Simon Khan.

NBA: Krzyzewski to coach US Olympians through 2016

DURHAM (AFP) - Mike Krzyzewski, who guided the Americans to two Olympic titles, will coach the US national team of NBA stars through the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, USA Basketball announced.

The 66-year-old college coaching legend, who has masterminded four national championship squads at Duke University, is 62-1 in seven years guiding the US national team, including a 50-game win streak.

But "Coach K" had said he was not planning to sign up for another four-year stint with the US team, which will include a July training camp in Las Vegas and next year's FIBA World Cup in Spain as well as the next Olympics.

In the past week, Krzyzewski admitted he was mulling over a return as coach and when USA Basketball scheduled an announcement at Duke, there was little doubt it meant Krzyzewski was set to guide the Americans through

to Rio Games.

"It is tough to give up something you've absolutely loved doing for seven years, the people you're doing it with, and most importantly, the country you're doing it for," Krzyzewski said.

Many of the stars who have played under "Coach K" on gold medal teams in 2008 at Beijing and 2012 in London, some who might very well do so again in Rio, were excited at the news.

NBA scoring champion Kevin Durant of Oklahoma City, who has donated \$1 million for tornado relief efforts in his team's storm-stricken area, called playing for Krzyzewski on 2010 world champion and 2012 Olympic champion teams "amazing."

Krzyzewski took charge of the program after a disappointing bronze-medal finish at the 2004 Athens Olympics. Since then, the only US loss came in a 2006 World Championship semi-final to Greece at Japan.

WBO super flyweight championship

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - The WBO super flyweight championship will be on the line this night in Argentina, as Omar Narvaez defends his title against No. 1 ranked contender Felipe Orucuta. Narvaez (38-1-2, 20 KO) won the title in 2010 and has successfully defended it six times. His lone career loss came when he jumped up in weight to challenge for a share of the bantamweight title, and was easily defeated by Nonito Donaire. Felipe Orucuta (27-1, 23 KO) is the WBO's top contender at 115-pounds and will enter the fight on a nine fight knockout streak, including two consecutive first round knockouts. But he has never faced anyone the caliber of Narvaez and will be fighting for the first time in a hostile environment.



Argentine WBO super flyweight champion Omar Narvaez (C) poses during the weigh-in, on the eve of the fight against Mexican boxer Felipe Orucuta (out of frame).

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Football: Euro final penalties won't bother Bayern

LONDON (AFP) - Germany star Thomas Mueller has insisted the prospect of today's Champions League final being settled by penalties will not bother Bayern Munich, despite suffering the heart-break of losing the 2012 final in a shoot-out.

Bayern take on Bundesliga rivals Borussia Dortmund at Wembley in their third Champions League final in four years, having lost last season's showcase finale 'dahoam' -- at home -- to Chelsea in Munich, two years after falling at the final hurdle to Jose Mourinho's Inter Milan.

In the 2012 final, Mueller put Bayern ahead on 83 minutes, only for Didier Drogba to equalise two minutes from time from Chelsea's first corner of the game.

The Ivory Coast striker then fired home the decisive spot-kick to win the shoot-out 4-3 and ruin the Munich party, but Mueller insists there will be no worried looks in the Bayern camp should the Wembley final go to penalties.

"I don't think it has anything to do with self-confidence but we had the history of the penalty shoot-out in Madrid," he said after Bayern beat Real Madrid on spot-kicks in last year's Champions League semi-final.

"Besides, you never know who is going to finish up on the pitch. "Some are better at taking penalties than others but I don't think anyone will wet their pants over it."

Despite his confidence, Mueller has hit 50 penalties in training and many of his teammates have also dedicated extra time to practising the dreaded spot-kicks.

Regardless of how today's showcase is decided, Mueller underlined just how eager he was to finally end up on the winning side.

"When you lose three times, you get stamped as a 'loser' - not undeservedly so. And you don't want that," said the 23-year-old. "We just want to bring this bloody thing back to Munich."

Having dominated the Bundesliga, the Bavarians swept

aside Barcelona 7-0 on aggregate with some breathtaking football in the semi-final and coach Jupp Heynckes is confident Bayern can win over the regulation 90 minutes.

"For the last few weeks we've been able to work on things, automatic processes have been honed and this includes situations like penalties," said the 68-year-old, who will step down at the end of the season.

"Penalties are totally differ-

ent situations to training but my players have quite simply, on a one-to-one basis, gone out there this week and practised penalty kicks, as well as other set plays."

Having dropped just 11 points as they won the league title by 25 points, Bayern take on VfB Stuttgart next Saturday in the German Cup final on June 1 at Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

Heynckes, who will be re-

placed as head coach by Pep Guardiola, will bow out in Berlin with his side bidding to become the first German team to win the treble of European, league and cup titles, if they also win at Wembley.

Bayern beat Dortmund 1-0 in the German Cup quarter-final in February, then drew 1-1 in Dortmund in their recent Bundesliga clash and Heynckes just wants his team to carry their good form through to Wembley.

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